

Ambassadors of Excellence

By Carol North Schmuckler

There's a new student honorary on campus, whose members are more than just bright and motivated. They also love being at SU and, given a chance, they'll tell you all about it.

On certain days the Syracuse campus seems to burst into color. The colors are Syracuse's traditional ones—orange and blue—and they have nothing to do with spring flowers or fall foliage. They're displayed on the gaily striped rugby shirts worn by a select new group of undergraduate students.

They're called the University 100 because there are only 100 of them, chosen from an undergraduate population of 11,500. About equally divided between men and women, they come from every school and college at SU and range from sophomores to seniors. They're tall, short, black, Hispanic, white, thin, robust, and all those other disparate things you would expect at a school as cosmopolitan as Syracuse.

But despite their differences, they share several important traits. Every student is in good academic standing. They're all involved in one or another of SU's extracurricular activities. A surprising percentage participate in some kind of advising program, either in their residence halls or in their home colleges. They're all articulate and not particularly shy. And, most important of all, they are proud to be Syracuse students, and they just love to talk about it.

Although being selected is clearly an honor—almost 300 students applied for the 100 openings—membership means more than a prestigious addition to a student resume. It entails active participation.

"The University 100 are ambassadors for the University," explains David C. Smith, dean of admissions and financial aid and one of the people most involved in creating the group.

"There are many occasions when SU officials want guests of the University to meet students and hear their points of view. The University 100 is made up of students who are eager to do that, and they serve as representatives of Syracuse in a great variety of situations. They are bright, articulate, and sincere, and I have never been associated with a group of young people that impressed me more."

There is practically no end to the things University 100 members do. During Reunion and Homecoming, theirs are the faces that welcome returning alumni as the students cheerfully tote luggage, conduct tours, and generally remind alumni just how nice SU students can be. At Commencement they greet parents and usher them to their seats. When the Board of Trustees is in session, University 100 students escort members and their spouses to various functions on campus. In fact, they have become so much a part of University life that it's hard to imagine how Syracuse ever got along without them.

Chancellor Melvin A. Eggers is only one SU administrator who has asked University 100 students to greet the University's guests at the airport. Robert Doerr, a junior in the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, has pulled that assignment several times. "People who are coming to Syracuse for the first time are curious about a lot of



On the Crouse College staircase are (left to right, from top) C. Kier, D. Levy, A. Sullivan, F. Feldman, C. Offutt, K. Andrews, G. DiChiara, E. Hanrahan, J. DiNapoli, J. Check, and E. Bond.

different things, from enrollment to the specialties of the different schools and colleges," he says. "Of course, the trustees already know most of the facts about the University, but they want to know exactly what's been happening on campus lately. Hearing that from a student makes a difference."

Whenever possible, University 100 assignments combine students' individual interests with official duties. For instance, when a group of international broadcasters visited the campus last spring, they were escorted by several University 100 students who were pursuing dual majors in communications and international relations.

University 100 students are also in demand when they can offer a perspective on a particular aspect of college life. Lori Roberts, a junior in advertising design from Morristown, New Jersey, found herself in exactly that position.

Roberts' main extracurricular activity at Syracuse is her sorority, Alpha Chi Omega, in which she's held a series of important responsibilities. When she attended a send-off party for incoming freshmen last summer, she found that many of them wanted to know about the Greek system and what it was like living in a sorority house. That was

an insight she was delighted to share, but not the only one.

"Besides being in a sorority, I'm also an art student who chose Syracuse instead of a specialized art school because I wanted my art training in a university setting," Roberts explains. "I couldn't have made a better choice."

The campus is not the only place University 100 students represent Syracuse. Desiree Simons of Newark, New Jersey, did so before a national audience. She was one of Avon's Liberty Hostesses during the July 1986 festivities surrounding the unveiling of the refurbished Statue of Liberty.

A senior in broadcast journalism, Simons was one of only 250 students in the country selected for the prestigious position, and she credits her University 100 experience with her success in carrying out the week's duties. "Everything I was called on to do I had already learned at Syracuse," she says.

Simons was interviewed on WABC and escorted Muhammad Ali, Frank Sinatra, and members of the Jets and Giants football teams to various ceremonies. She was also one of a special cadre of 28 young women

The University 100

Dawn Elise Aikman; Andover, Mass.; junior; public relations
Carole Sue Allen; Yarmouth, Maine; junior; public relations
Kim Marie Andrews; Newburgh, N.Y.; junior; nursing
Lawrence I. Barron; Chicago, Ill.; senior; television, radio, film/marketing

Lawrence M. Baum; King of Prussia, Pa.; senior; finance
Joy Colleen Belanger; Coventry, R.I.; sophomore; broadcast journalism/public affairs
Anupam Bhargava; Cheshire, Conn.; junior; mechanical engineering

Mark Henry Bickel; Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; graduate student; public relations

Paige Renee Billings; Baldwinsville, N.Y.; junior; chemistry/biology/psychology
Edison Bond Jr.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; senior; biology/psychology

Arthur John Cady; Kenmore, N.Y.; senior; advertising

Perry John Casciato; Colmar, Pa.; junior; management/television, radio, film

Jayne A. Check; Whitesboro, N.Y.; senior; finance/marketing

Judy Clancy; West Barnstable, Mass.; senior; newspaper journalism

Sandra Clark; Memphis, N.Y.; junior; policy studies/economics

Leslie Ann Coale; Newton Square, Pa.; sophomore; magazine journalism
Thomas John Coleman; Webster, N.Y.; senior; finance
Jeffrey J. Comanici; Pittsburgh, Pa.; junior; finance/marketing
Susan Ruth Crandall; Stoughton, Mass.; junior; psychology
Eileen Crespo; New York, N.Y.; sophomore; premedicine
Christine Carla Cybulski; South Deerfield, Mass.; junior; speech pathology
James H. Davis III; Gardner, Mass.; senior; public relations/political science
Dawn M. DePuy; Ogdensburg, N.J.; junior; management information systems
Gina M. DiChiara; Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.; senior; newspaper journalism/Spanish literature
Jill Ann DiNapoli; Syracuse, N.Y.; senior; public relations/English
Paul R. Dixon; Foxborough, Mass.; senior; magazine journalism/English
Robert C. Doerr; Bronxville, N.Y.; senior; wood products engineering
Lawrence El-Hindi; Fabius, N.Y.; senior; mechanical engineering
Frederick Feldman; Great Neck, N.Y.; senior; international relations
Carla Marie Fischer; Erie, Pa.; senior; public relations
Frederic M. Foerst; Bedford, Mass.; senior; aerospace engineering
Lisa A. Forma; Bowie, Md.; senior; television, radio, film production
Patricia Diane Franks; Alexandria, Va.; senior; English/education
Maureen Elizabeth Galvin; Syracuse, N.Y.; senior; dietetics management
Stacy Maurice Glover; New York, N.Y.; senior; history/education

selected to hold flags when President Reagan set off the fireworks.

"It was an incredible week—total celebrity overload! I went through two pairs of shoes, my feet swelled to a larger size, and I never did get more than four hours of sleep a night," Simons laughs, "but I'll never forget it."

Unusual experiences seem to follow Simons, even on campus. There was the day she took the wives of members of the Board of Trustees on a tour and lost two of them—fortunately in the bookstore, so the only damage was to their wallets.

But there was also the afternoon she spotted a tired, bedraggled group of parents and students wandering around campus in the rain by themselves and shanghaied them.

"Later I found they'd purposely avoided a formal tour, insisting they wanted to see things for themselves. But I could see they weren't understanding what they were seeing, and to me they just looked as though they'd had it. So I dragged them around with me, pointing things out and explaining what it was like to be a student here. I had to cut a class to do it, but I didn't want them to go away not knowing how terrific Syracuse is."

Despite this range of assignments, however, University 100 students spend much of their time on behalf of the Office of Admissions, chatting informally with prospective students and parents in the admissions office, conducting tours of residence halls and academic facilities, delivering SU recruitment material to their hometown high schools, and attending admissions programs at home.

"We've found that hearing about Syracuse from a contemporary makes a crucial difference when a student is deciding which college to attend," says Annette Scarlata, assistant director of admissions and coordinator of the University 100 program.

She explains that this one-on-one contact with University 100 students dramatically demonstrates that Syracuse, despite its size, is a very friendly campus. "In addition, when applicants meet students in their prospective majors, they find out things an admissions counselor can't tell them."

For Karen Graham, a senior in the School of Social Work, that happened not with a prospective student but with the student's parents.

"In the admissions office one day I began



In Maxwell Hall's foyer are (left to right, bottom row) C. Taylor, D. Klau, S. Williams, M. Saurman, L. Suggitt, L. Forma, and M. Schooler; (middle row) K. Proctor, L. Baum, and L. Barron; and (top row) L. El-Hindi, D. McDermott, S. Merriman, M. Bickel, L. Roberts, S. Nelson, E. Crespo, T. Ryan, L. Coale, C. Fischer, N. Picard, K. Lockwood, and K. Sheehan.



In the Chancellor's conference room are (seated, left to right) P. Casciato, K. Graham, A. Prytherch, J. Mandelbaum, and J. Clancy; and (standing) C. Cybulski, S. Clark, D. Goetz, P. Billings, S. Crandall, and D. DePuy.

talking to a mother and father who were concerned because their daughter was interested in social work and they felt she wouldn't earn very much. They were surprised when I started to laugh, until I explained that I had changed my major from computer science, which can mean big money, to social work, which would earn less but would make me happy at my work every day. I could see it suddenly hit them that maybe there were other things to consider besides money."

Graham also shares other insights with visitors. She was not only a sophomore transfer student, but she's lived on campus and also at home in Liverpool, a Syracuse suburb. So she can speak authoritatively on transferring and on being a "city student."

"I tell kids from the city of Syracuse not to ignore the University just because it's so close. It may have just what they're looking for. You can have a wonderful life on campus even if you're living at home."

Senior Chris Taylor of Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, was able to help the admissions effort during vacations. At two Boston meetings for prospective students plus a freshman send-off party, he found himself the center of attention.

"Once the formal presentation ended, the kids crowded around me asking questions. They wanted to know just everything about going to Syracuse: What are the residence halls like? What if you don't like your roommate? Is there a real campus or is it like schools in Boston, right in the middle of the city? How deep is the snow? What's the liberal arts core and does anyone understand it? Is there anything to do on weekends?"

Taylor, who is a dual major in public relations and political science, says, "I think I can provide a clear, overall perspective of what it's like to be a student here. The admissions office does a terrific job giving students information. I just contribute that extra little bit they need to know."

While conducting tours of the campus would seem a fairly routine matter, Perry Casciato of Philadelphia found it pays to be prepared for anything. A junior majoring in both radio-television management and marketing, Casciato was leading a group of

David B. Goetz; Philadelphia, Pa.; junior; accounting

Meg Alix Goldberg; Fayetteville, N.Y.; junior; marketing/telecommunications management

Karen Lynn Graham; Liverpool, N.Y.; senior; social work

Eileen Marie Hanrahan; Wappingers Falls, N.Y.; junior; advertising

Ann Marie Hoda; Copiague, N.Y.; senior; elementary education

Geraldine Marina Johnson; Brooklyn, N.Y.; junior; nursing

Christian K. Kier; Penfield, N.Y.; junior; bioengineering/electrical engineering

Deborah Ariel Klau; West Simsbury, Conn.; senior; television, radio, film production

Daniel Joseph Levy; Tarrytown, N.Y.; senior; magazine journalism

Sandra Joan Linn; McLean, Va.; sophomore; photography

Kurt William Lockwood; Woodstock, Conn.; junior; chemical engineering

Richard Stuart Madaleno Jr.; Silver Spring, Md.; senior; Russian studies

Joel Barry Mandelbaum; Livingston, N.J.; senior; broadcast journalism

John Michael Mandyck; Endicott, N.Y.; junior; policy studies

David G. Marut; Catskill, N.Y.; junior; international relations

Denise Maria McDermott; Bronx, N.Y.; junior; political science

Amy Livingston Mellen; Chagrin Falls, Ohio; senior; fibers

Jon E. Mendelsohn; Fayetteville, N.Y.; junior; biology (premedicine)

Sandra E. Merriman; Hamlin, N.Y.; junior; political science

Eric G. Meyer; DeWitt, N.Y.; junior; broadcast journalism

Joseph Michel; Webster, N.Y.; senior; accounting

Jeffrey Wayne Mooney; Newton, N.J.; sophomore; telecommunications management

Sharon Nelson; Brooklyn, N.Y.; senior; public relations
Lori Rachel Neuburger; Ard-
 sley, N.Y.; junior; advertising
Gregory James Nickett; War-
 rington, Pa.; senior; public
 relations/marketing
Evan Gerard Nosel; Walling-
 ford, Conn.; senior; aerospace
 engineering
Caroline Schrader Offutt;
 Bethesda, Md.; senior; systems
 and information science/
 marketing
Thomas J. Panagos; Setauket,
 N.Y.; junior; management in-
 formation systems/marketing
Pamela Joyce Parsons; Pitts-
 burgh, Pa.; senior; advertising
Caryn Eileen Pfeffer; Naples,
 N.Y.; junior; international
 relations/French
Nancy M. Picard; Hilltown,
 Pa.; junior; public relations/
 English
Guido James Porcarelli;
 Sidney, N.Y.; senior; political
 science
Mark Edward Portier; Tenaflly,
 N.J.; senior; English/telecom-
 munications management
Kenneth E. Proctor; Needham,
 Mass.; senior; international
 relations/marketing
A. Alison Prytherch; Glen-
 shaw, Pa.; junior; bioengineer-
 ing/electrical engineering
Lynn Glauser Rine; Wheeling,
 W.Va.; sophomore; public
 relations
Lori Margaret Roberts; Mor-
 ristown, N.J.; senior; advertis-
 ing design
Helen Rose; New York, N.Y.;
 senior; speech pathology
Jonathan Stewart Rosenthal;
 Baltimore, Md.; junior;
 political science/television,
 radio, film management
Helene Miriam Rothman;
 Larchmont, N.Y.; junior;
 psychology
Timothy F. Ryan; Corning,
 N.Y.; junior; bioengineering
Kimberly Ann Sachse; Mal-
 vern, Pa.; sophomore;
 marketing
Patricia Elizabeth Samperi;
 Allenwood, N.J.; junior;
 newspaper journalism



At the Schine Student Center are (left to right, bottom row) H. Rothman, E. Meyer, M. Goldberg, and J. Mendelsohn; (second row) P. Franks, S. Shanahan, A. Tarshis, J. Cady, L. Neuburger, P. Samperi, R. Steiner, C. Allen, and J. Rosenthal; (third row) J. Zappa, L. Rine, D. Marut, E. Nosel, A. Bhargava, J. Comanici, K. Sachse, and T. Panagos; and (top row) G. Porcarelli, A. Mellen, J. Belanger, W. M. Stecklow, F. M. Foerst, S. Smith, and J. Mooney.

parents and applicants last spring when two protestors from the Divest Now group decided to join them, uninvited.

"At first I was nervous because they represented a different view," Casciato explains. "Then I realized that parents certainly understand their children are going to be exposed to all kinds of new ideas in college. I mean, that's what education is about, isn't it? So I just explained to my group that divestiture was an important issue to many people on campus. The demonstrators ended up having a lively—but friendly—conversation with several of the parents and it turned into a really interesting hour for everybody."

Susan E. Donovan, assistant dean of admissions and financial aid, stresses that including students from all the University's constituencies is an important part of the program.

"We're not looking for clones we can program to say the same thing," she emphasizes. "There should be as many different personalities and interests in the University 100 as there are among the visitors to Syracuse."

That's why, according to Donovan, academic excellence is not the only criterion for selection. "The University 100 are students who can hold their own academically, are involved in the University's activities, and display leadership ability, maturity, and sincerity."

To find its initial 100 last year, the Office of Admissions placed invitations in the campus newspaper and also asked the deans of SU's schools and colleges to nominate qualified students.

Applicants underwent interviews with representatives of the Office of Admissions, the Office of the Chancellor, and the dean of students. The original 100 students were named late in the fall and began their duties spring semester. Each year other students can apply to replace those who have graduated; this fall, with only 45 spots open, the office received twice as many applications as it needed.

A steady stream of memos keeps students alerted to events for which they are needed, as well as activities in their hometowns. When someone with special skills or a particular major is required, the admissions staff calls them. Each week University 100 students drop into the Office of Admissions and sign up for various activities as their schedules permit. In fact, according to Donovan, one of the nicest side benefits is the constant presence of University 100s in the Tolley Administration Building, where they spontaneously strike up conversations with visitors.

Donovan adds, "Above all, University 100 students must be able to communicate. As a group, they make a powerful statement about the advantages of being at Syracuse, and they dramatically demonstrate what it's possible to accomplish here."

If you ask students why they enjoy participating in the program, you hear many different reasons, most of them quite personal.

Chris Taylor admits he likes feeling himself a part of the University administration, while Robert Doerr talks about how good it makes him feel knowing he's helped somebody. Lori Roberts simply says it's great fun talking about a school in which she takes so much pride. Perry Casciato finds he's learned an enormous amount about dealing with all kinds of people. Karen Graham agrees, adding that she used to be shy about approaching strangers but isn't anymore.

Smith predicts that students' pleasure with the program will have significant results in years to come. "These students have a sense of ownership about those who will follow them at this University. I can easily imagine that University 100 students will be eager to continue their involvement in the University as alumni."

Smith might have had Jay Davis of Weymouth, Massachusetts, in mind. A senior majoring in public relations and political science, Davis candidly admits, "I wish I were a freshman again, starting the whole thing over. I'd love to be here another four years!"

What Davis likes doing most is just going into the Office of Admissions and talking to people. "The applicants are so nervous that at first all I try to do is calm them down. But eventually I get a chance to take a student aside and say, 'Okay, you've seen the

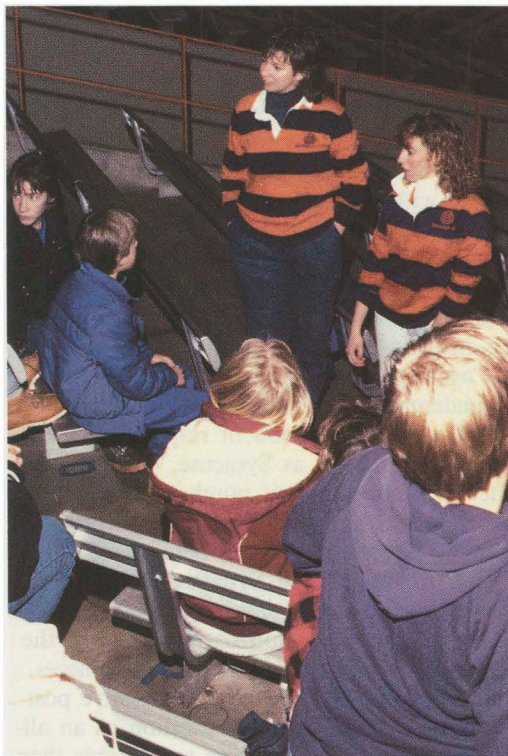
film and had the interview. Now what would you *really* like to know?'"

What Davis tells them is simple. "The choices at this University are unbelievable. You don't have to belong to any particular clique or hip crowd to fit in. If you're into archery or art or hiking or drama, there's something here for you. And if there isn't, you can start it."

Davis is the best example of his words. He is a resident advisor, vice president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, a Newhouse peer advisor, and is very active in the Public Relations Student Society of America. He's also a press intern for New York State Assemblyman Mel Zimmer.

Davis' commitment to Syracuse is not only strong but obviously long-term, just as Smith foresees. "If I make a difference in just one person coming here, I figure I've done a good job," says Davis. "I love representing the University. I owe Syracuse because it's given me the chance to grow. Now I want to give something back."

He and 99 others have made a good start.



One of the many ways that University 100 members help SU is by leading campus tours. Here, Caroline Offutt (left) and Marianne Schooler show a class of local sixth-graders the inside of the Carrier Dome.

Michele A. Saurman; Fayetteville, N.Y.; junior; advertising/marketing

Marianne Schooler; Manlius, N.Y.; junior; psychology
Susan Mary Shanahan; Williamsville, N.Y.; senior; nursing
Kelley Ann Sheehan; Braintree, Mass.; senior; personnel and industrial relations

Desiree Robin Simons; Newark, N.J.; senior; broadcast journalism

Angela D. Simpson; New York, N.Y.; senior; telecommunications management/acting
Susan Lisa Smith; Avon, Conn.; junior; finance/marketing

Wylie M. Stecklow; Roslyn, N.Y.; senior; accounting/law and public policy

Rochelle Steiner; Los Angeles, Calif.; senior; advertising/English

Loretta Christine Suggitt; Wappingers Falls, N.Y.; junior; management

Angela Denise Sullivan; Amherst, N.Y.; senior; international relations

Kristin J. Sullivan; Melrose, Mass.; junior; interior environmental design

Amy Lynne Tarshis; Scarsdale, N.Y.; senior; family and community service

Christopher James Taylor; Shewsbury, Mass.; senior; public relations

Robert Tryanski; Lansdale, Pa.; junior; television, radio, film production/political science

Amy Anne Walsh; Palm City, Fla.; junior; magazine journalism/English

Deborah Rose Warren; East Hampton, Conn.; senior; English

Sharon Anne Williams; Liverpool, N.Y.; sophomore; public relations/policy studies

Jeaneen A. Zappa; Pittsburgh, Pa.; senior; magazine journalism/marketing